

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSION ON
3 HIGHER EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE
4 UNIVERSITIES TO COLLABORATE TO IMPLEMENT SUICIDE PREVENTION
5 AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ALL
6 INSTITUTIONS LISTED IN ARTICLE 12, SECTION 11 OF THE
7 CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO.

8
9 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks number one in suicide rates
10 among states in the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, suicide is the third-leading cause of death for
12 youth fifteen to twenty-five years of age; the second-leading
13 cause of death for youth ten to fourteen years of age; and
14 the second-leading cause of death for college students
15 according to the national association of suicidology; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico youth risk and
17 resiliency survey for 2003, students were asked questions
18 pertaining to feelings of sadness, depression and suicidal
19 thoughts and the findings showed that twenty and six-tenths
20 percent of females and thirteen and six-tenths percent of
21 males in grades nine through twelve seriously considered
22 suicide in 2003; and

23 WHEREAS, the survey also showed that a total of fifteen
24 and nine-tenths percent of New Mexico youth reported that in
25 the year prior to the survey they had developed a suicide

1 plan; and

2 WHEREAS, the survey also found that fourteen and
3 one-half percent of young people attempted suicide in the
4 year prior to the survey and seven and one-half percent were
5 seriously injured due to a suicide attempt; and

6 WHEREAS, statistics show that more young adults die from
7 suicide than die from cancer, heart disease, acquired immune
8 deficiency syndrome, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia,
9 influenza and chronic lung disease combined; and

10 WHEREAS, a protocol for the entire state to follow and
11 adhere to would greatly benefit school officials, students,
12 families and communities in responding to suicide attempts
13 and completions within schools and communities; and

14 WHEREAS, the issue of youth suicide is one that affects
15 family, friends, communities and the state as a whole; and

16 WHEREAS, because the future of New Mexico relies on the
17 futures of young people who one day will be the business and
18 community leaders, governors, doctors, teachers, attorneys,
19 scientists and parents, no child or young adult should feel
20 that the world would be better without him or her; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexicans owe it to the future to employ
22 everyone's effort in addressing this important issue;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department, the
25 commission on higher education, the department of health and

1 representatives of the institutions listed in Article 12,
2 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico collaborate to
3 address the issue of youth suicide by developing and
4 providing training programs for teachers and students and
5 developing a suicide prevention and response protocol and
6 establishing suicide prevention and response programs in all
7 public schools and universities in New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
9 education, the director of the commission on higher education
10 and the secretary of health take the lead to establish a
11 protocol to be used in schools to provide suicide prevention
12 and response training and report to an appropriate interim
13 committee of the legislature on their progress no later than
14 November 2005; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the director
17 of the commission on higher education, the secretary of health
18 and the presidents and boards of regents or governing boards
19 of the institutions listed in Article 12, Section 11 of the
20 constitution of New Mexico. _____

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